

Action must be taken!

A DEPRESSING season for Bromley's home fans came to a sad end last Saturday when Wycombe became the 12th side to win in the league at Hayes Lane, beating Bromley 2-0.

The biggest cheer of the afternoon came with the news that Sunderland were beating Arsenal—there was precious little else for anybody to get excited about.

So inept was Bromley's attack that they could muster only one effort in the first half—a header by skipper Roy Pettet that was slipped over the bar by 'keeper Maskell.

With Tony Nantcurvis playing for Wales against Ireland, manager Alan Basham brought in reserve Bob Head to team up with John Rains and Micky Trevett.

Not surprisingly they made little headway against Wycombe's resolute and solid defence.

TRIBUTE

But tribute must be paid to John Rains, who has done a great job for Bromley. He started the season in the reserves, and played his first games in defence.

But after the departure of Tony Coppin to Tooting, Alan Basham asked John to play up front in an effort to end the club's goal famine.

Since then he has become Bromley's leading scorer with seven goals, and although he still often looks very much like a centre-half playing centre-forward, John has shown tremendous courage against all the odds.

Another player who I think deserves special praise this season is John Miles. Apart from one slip last Saturday, which gave Wycombe's Searle the first of his two goals, John had a fine game.

He and brother Mick have been the mainstay of a Bromley defence which has had a thankless task this season.

"HAMMERED"

Every time they have stepped out they have known they would be defending for 80 per cent of the game—yet only once have Bromley been "hammered," when they lost at home to record-breaking champions, Hendon.

They have known that their forwards would score few goals to ease their problems—

yet despite a string of defeats, they have never willingly conceded a game.

At this stage of the season many clubs would be completely demoralised, but Bromley have continued to show a fine team spirit.

But having said all that, something drastic must be done before the start of next season.

New coach Pat Tarling hopes to bring some fresh blood into the club, but these players must be better than the ones now playing.

For the first time next season the Isthmian League will be split into two divisions, and Bromley will certainly face relegation unless changes are made.

Somehow, somewhere, Bromley must find ways of raising money in order to attract better players to the club. Several times this season manager Alan Basham has been within a whisker of signing a top player, but lack of money has been the stumbling block.

STEVE BIERLEY

